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THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) & (b) The Government received two petitions from Sri M. Kotaiah, one on 22nd May 1946 and the other on 25th May 1946, alleging forcible collection of unauthorized fees by the Ellore Municipal market and cart-stand contractors in respect of laden carts entering the town, but not using the municipal market or cart-stand. The Commissioner of the Ellore Municipality received a similar petition from Sri Kotaiah in April 1946 and three other petitions in May 1946 purporting to be reminders regarding his first petition. The Commissioner received petitions on the same subject also from Sri Y. Rama Rao, M. Veera Venkayya and K. Ranganayakulu, Fuel merchants, in March 1946.

" The Government and the Municipal Commissioner have not received further petitions on the subject. The result of the enquiry into the petitions is mentioned in the answer to clauses (c) and (d).

" (c) & (d) The Collector and the District Superintendent of Police have received similar petitions from Sri Kotaiah. The Municipal Commissioner, the Police department and the Collector have enquired into the complaints against the contractors and have submitted reports to the Government. The Municipal Commissioner who is the proper authority to take action against the contractors has, after conducting an enquiry, fined the contractors Rs. 20 each and has warned them that their contracts would be cancelled if they persisted in the collection of unauthorised fees. There have been no complaints of unauthorized collections subsequently."

Appointment of the Commissioners of Municipalities.

* 32 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether rules governing the appointment of commissioners of municipalities have been framed; and if so, what they are;

(b) who appoints these commissioners;

(c) whether a list of eligible persons for these posts is maintained and if so what is the procedure adopted in framing this list;

(d) whether the Government propose to alter the method by transferring the selection to the Public Service Commission;

(e) whether there are one or more classes of commissioners and what the grade of salary fixed for each class is; and

(f) who is the authority invested with the power of making promotions from one class to another?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) The appointment of municipal commissioners is governed by the provisions of section 12-C of the Madras District Municipalities Act. Apart from these provisions, no rules have been framed by Government for the purpose.

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" (b) Municipal commissioners are appointed by Government.

" (c) Yes, ordinarily applications are called for by advertisement from candidates possessing the requisite qualifications and a selection is made from among the applicants by a selection board and the list of persons selected is approved by Government.

" (d) No.

" (e) There are four grades of municipal commissioners and the scales of pay of the grades are as follows :—

	RS.
I grade	250—50/2—700
II grade	175—15/2—250
III grade	125—10/2—175
IV grade	,00— 5/2—125

" (f) Government make the promotions."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, the district to which each of these commissioners belong? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" It is difficult to answer the question off-hand, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Having framed the rules for selection of commissioners, will the Government consider the question of transferring the selection to the Public Service Commission, instead of appointing an *ad hoc* committee and asking them to prepare a preliminary list? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The services in the local bodies have not been organized, and the municipal commissioners do not form a separate service of the Government. Under these circumstances, the Public Service Commission was consulted and they have declined to help the Government in the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA :—" Is it not desirable that the municipal services also should be organized in the same manner as the other services? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Digging wells with the help of Sappers and Miners.

* 33 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any action has been taken in order to secure the help of Sappers and Miners for the digging of wells, as suggested by some members of the House in the proceedings of the Council in May 1946;

(b) if so, how many wells have been sunk by them, in what districts and at what cost with reference to each district; and

(c) if not, why the Government have not taken such action?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" (a) The Government have taken action to secure the help of the army in digging